

COVID-19

Resource Tracker



15.12.2021

Overview

The COVID-19 Resource tracker is a ZIMCODD initiative to keep track of all resources pledged, received and expended by the Government of Zimbabwe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 to date. The aim of the COVID-19 Resources Tracker is to strengthen transparency and accountability by the government on COVID-19 resources while empowering citizens with information to hold the government to account for the allocation and utilisation of COVID-19 resources. The tracker is updated on a weekly basis.

Zimbabwe continues to mobilise resources internally and externally to respond to the devastating socioeconomic effects of COVID-19. Among other efforts, the government in the 2021 national budget has set aside ZWL7 billion to recruit more health personnel, procure PPEs, testing kits and sundries required in fighting COVID-19. The government also budgeted ZWL3.5billion to cushion 500 000 vulnerable households whose beneficiaries comprise of members in the informal sector, returning residents and children living on the streets. On 18 February 2021, the Government through the Ministry of Health and Child Care launched the vaccination program and as at 13 December 2021, a total of 3 966 929 Zimbabweans had been inoculated.



TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$946,579, 157

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$712,546,503

AMOUNT SPENT



\$643,077,028



This Week
15/12/2021

TOTAL PLEDGES



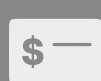
US\$25,400,000

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$25,000,000

AMOUNT SPENT



\$25,000,000

The government of Zimbabwe is commended for approving and extending the vaccination program to 16–17-year age group based on the available scientific data in line with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe. This is commendable and will go a long way in curbing the surging COVID-19 cases that are occurring in schools and ultimately reaching the herd immunity target

Major Concerns & Recommendations

COVID-19 Funds

- ZIMCODD notes with concern the dire state of hospitals in the country, with the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus once again exposing how underprepared and under-resourced the country's public health institutions are. According to reports, health officials have expressed fears that a possible spike in new COVID-19 cases following an outbreak of the Omicron variant could trigger a shortage of hospital beds as the country's health institutions have inadequate intensive care unit (ICU) facilities. Oxygen and oxygen canisters are other essential needs that are said to be in short supply.
- Despite government promises that the country's battered healthcare system is on the mend, there is little evidence on the ground to suggest that Zimbabwe is better prepared to deal with the pandemic should infections increase exponentially especially during the normally busy festive season. It is important therefore for the government in the 2022 budget to prioritize strengthening and improving the healthcare system.
- As Zimbabwe prepares to battle the Omicron variant, two of the biggest hospitals serving the country's second largest city, Bulawayo, are said to be incapacitated by staff shortages. It has been revealed that 170 doctors and nurses at Mpilo Central Hospital and the United Bulawayo Hospitals (UBH) are in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19, a development that is likely to cripple health care service delivery at Bulawayo's two major referral hospitals. Of concern however, is that the manpower shortages at the institutions cannot be attributed to COVID-19 alone, as there has been continuous exodus of health workers from these and other institutions around the country.

Vaccines

- While Covid-19 has exacerbated the situation, the Government needs to do more to stem the tide, particularly by channelling COVID-19 funds towards improving the remuneration and working conditions of healthcare workers.
- ZIMCODD calls for effective health communication and intensive community education and engagement to convey accurate information and facilitate informed and voluntary optimal vaccine uptake.
- It is important that the government continues to prioritize funding for and access to vaccines for its citizens, including prioritization of vaccine storage facilities.
- The government should scale up its vaccination campaign to ensure that herd immunity is attained soon as the current vaccines are expected to offer protection against severe infections and deaths.

Major Concerns & Recommendations

Procurement

- Zimbabwe is considered as one of the countries running a successful vaccination campaign in the African continent. The post-cabinet brief this Tuesday announced the availability of adequate stocks of vaccines to vaccinate all citizens following the receipt of 2.5 million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine from China during the week and fulfilment of the Indian Embassy pledge to deliver a donation of 40000 doses of covaxin which will arrive in the country on 16 December. On vaccine procurement, it is commendable that the Minister of Finance revealed that the government has spent about US\$204 million to purchase 17 million vaccines and syringes to date however, it the granular breakdown of the procurements remain opaque.
- Despite efforts by the government to promote vaccine transparency, there are still grey areas that undermines accountability. To this end, the government should publish vaccine purchasing matrices that shows how the government arrived at a certain vaccine type over the other.
- All vaccine procurement processes should go through the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe, so that the executive's influences should be limited in public procurement.